TL 5054

OMCT
OPERATING THE SOS-TORTURE NETWORK

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WORLD ORGANIZATION AGAINST TORTURE
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Case IDN/TMP 310599

The International Secretariat of OMCT requests your urgent intervention on the following situation in **East Timor/Indonesia.**

Brief description of the situation

The International Secretariat of OMCT continues to receive information on human rights violations on the civilian population in East-Timor, including enforced disappearances and killings by pro-integration paramilitary groups allegedly supported by the military and military forces in East Timor.

According to the East Timor Human Rights Centre (ETHRC), a member of the OMCT network, the most recent human rights violations have taken place in the Ermera District.

According to the information, sixteen East Timorese have been killed on 16 May 1999 in the village of Atara, located 100 kms south of Dili. These men were shot dead after an early morning raid on the village. One source has alleged that the pro-integration militia group, Team Pancasila, was responsible for the Atara killings. It is also alleged that members of the local ABRI forces supported Team Pancasila in the raid.

It has been further reported that another twenty one people have disappeared, possibly killed, in the same attack. Their whereabouts remain unknown.

According to reports, the raid and subsequent killings in Atara took place as the people of the village were getting ready to celebrate the morning Mass. Some villagers ran from their houses towards the coffee plantation where some people were shot. Seven houses were burned and destroyed. The following five people have been confirmed as having their houses burned : Joao Atilelo, Antonio Bertana, Fernando do Rego, Sisto Monis and Manuel Oliveria.

An ETHRC source has confirmed that access to the area of Atara has been made difficult because the military commander, from the neighbouring Ermera district, ordered the members of the militia and military to destroy two bridges so United Nations personnel have not been able to inquire about the case.

The list of the victims is as follows :

Killed :

Jose Lisu
Joao Sarmento
Abel de Jesus
Sidoni Leo (30)
Urbano Pereira
Paulo dos Reis
Rogerio Talo Aci (25)
Agostinho de Jesus (34)
Armando (no surname) (26)
Jose Justiano (30)
Romeo (no surname) 25
Tomas (no surname) 21
Urbano Gonsalves (35)
Abel Gonsalves (25)
Paulo de Jesus (20)
Joao Loe Mali (40)

Disappeared and believed to have been killed:

Manuel Oliveria (50)
Joao Ati-Lelo (35)
Geraldo dos Reis (26)
Raimondo Leo (25)
Alberto de Araujo (21)
Miguel de Jesus (24)
Clementino (no surname) (18)
Afonso Guterres (28)
Laurenco do Rego (25)
Valenti (no surname) (23)
Carlos (no surname) (28)
Helder Sanches (24)
Rogerio de Araujo (18)
Calisto dos Reis (24)
Joao Leto-Bere (23)
Joao Reis (34)
Luis Gonsalves (21)
Jose Gonsalves (27)
Jakarias (no surname) (24)
Joaquin (no surname) (24)
Moniz da Silva (28)

Remarks

The International Secretariat of OMCT is gravely concerned over the escalation of violence in East Timor, in particular, the violations perpetrated by pro-integration paramilitary groups which are believed to be armed and trained by the Indonesian military. Violence has escalated in East Timor since Indonesian authorities stated that it would grant the Timor independence if East Timorese reject its offer of wide-ranging autonomy in a ballot schedule to take place in August .

OMCT has serious grounds to believe that violence will continue and increase in East Timor as the ballot date approaches. It calls upon the international community to condemn these acts, which seem to be planned to terrorize and intimidate the East Timorese people.

Action requested

Please write to the Indonesian authorities urging them to:

i. guarantee the physical and psychological integrity of all persons in East Timor, particularly the above mentioned people, and immediately locate the whereabouts of the disappeared East Timorese people;

ii. should some of these persons be arrested, order their immediate release if they are detained without valid charges against them or, if such charges exist, bring them before a competent and impartial tribunal and guarantee their full procedural rights;

iii. guarantee an impartial and exhaustive inquiry into the aforementioned incidents, identify those responsible, particularly the paramilitary groups and the military involved in, bring them to trial, and apply the penal, civil, and/or administrative sanctions provided by law, in accordance with international standards;

iv. immediately disarm all civilian militia groups in East Timor.

v. take the appropriate and immediate measures to stop human rights violations in East Timor ;

vi. ensure immediate and unrestricted access in all areas of East Timor to UN human rights monitors, as well as to international and local human rights organisations ;

vii. ensure in all circumstances respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with national laws and international human rights standards;

Addresses

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MINISTER FOR DEFENCE FORCES, General Wiranto, Menteri Pertahanan Keamanan RI, Jl. Medan Merdeka Barat No 13-14, Jakarta 10110, INDONESIA, Telephone: +62 21 366 184
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MILITARY COMMANDER REGION IX/UDAYANA (includes East Timor), Major General Adam Damiri
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Diplomatic representatives of Indonesia in your country

Geneva, 31 May 1999

Kindly inform us of any action taken quoting the code of this appeal in your reply.